

COR-0887
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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief, DPD

10 AUG 1960

SUBJECT : Report of CORONA CPX

25X1 1. CORONA Mission 9000 CPX was accomplished during 13, 14 and 15 July between Headquarters, [] and WECEN.

2. The simulated launch occurred at 1900Z, 13 July 1960. The exercise simulated a three day orbit. The objectives of the CPX were to:

- (a) Test adequacy of reports control manual.
- (b) Test application of weather data to the CORONA program.
- (c) Test application of ground command control of camera operation.
- (d) Test availability and timeliness of data necessary to exercise desired control over the camera.
- (e) Test best location (Washington, D.C. or Palo Alto) to exercise camera control during flight.

3. The exercise was continued until recovery time of the third day although necessary benefits of the CPX derived by WECEN and Headquarters were completed at the end of the second day. Briefings for the third day simulated operation were not given as a result although necessary messages were transmitted between Headquarters and []. A critique was held at Headquarters on 1 August and the following representatives were present:

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Lt/Col Charles Murphy

[]

- []
- Headquarters
- Headquarters and WECEN

4. It was determined that the CPX exercise was very beneficial to all agencies concerned in that it highlighted problem areas and resulted in offering solutions that will increase the smoothness and efficiency of operation, minimize communication traffic, and afford closer and less complicated coordination between each participating organization. It also provided necessary guidelines to establish operating policies that were agreed upon by Headquarters and [].

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5. All objectives were adequately tested and enough information was gathered to correct recognized deficiencies in each area. A re-copy of the necessary action that has to be taken as a result of testing each objective of the CPX, the Section responsible for the action and status of each item is submitted:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
(a) Certain reports to be revised, new reports originated, changing submission times, adding, deleting addressees.	Headquarters	Will be completed 12 August 1960.
(b) Revising briefing aids for accurate, concise operational weather briefings.	Headquarters	Has been completed. Adequacy will be verified on next CPX tentatively scheduled for 17 August 1960
(c) Establishing secure, rapid communications between [redacted] to obtain vital data on timely basis.	Headquarters Security and Communications	Tentative approval has been obtained to install 60 WPM TWX repeater. Final decision will be made by 1 September 1960.

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6. In addition, several problem areas pointed up the necessity for a policy to cover unusual circumstances. Listed here are newly established policies that were agreed upon during the course of the critique and subsequent verbal briefing given you by Lt/Colonel Murphy, [redacted] and [redacted]

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(a) The initial multi-day orbit operational missions will obtain photography coverage over any flight line that possesses acceptable weather, whether it contains known intelligence targets or whether only pioneer coverage will be attained.

(b) [redacted] will have authority to change or modify Headquarters camera control instructions under the following conditions:

(1) When marginal acquisition conditions exist at control time.

(2) When vehicle or camera difficulties develop and complying with Headquarters decision would result in further degradation of the mission.

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(c) In event of complete communications failure and Headquarters command decision is not received, the camera will be turned off unless remaining payload equals the life of the vehicle over the target area.

7. It was determined that Washington, D.C. is the best location to exercise control over the camera operation except as indicated in Para 6(b).

8. A repeat CPX is tentatively scheduled in connection with next CORONA launch (approximately 17 August 1960).

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for
Chief, Operations Branch, DPD

25X1 DPD/COR Sect. [redacted]

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